

was arrested in 2009 on charges of "inciting subversion of state power," and was sentenced to 11 years in prison. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, making him the only Nobel Peace Prize winner in prison. His wife, Liu Xia, continues to face harassment is currently under house arrest.

For these reasons, the United States government and our representative in the United Nations should vote against China regaining membership on the United Nations Human Rights Council. This Council was designed to help protect people from the kinds of persecution that they suffer at the hands of the Chinese government. The effort to keep China off of the Council has a strong coalition, including Tibetans, Uyghurs, Mongols, Han Chinese, Christians, Muslims, and Falun Gong, along with many human rights lawyers and advocates.

I would urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in this effort by cosponsoring H. Res. 327 to keep China off of the United Nations Human Rights Council and encourage another suitably qualified member from the Asia-Pacific region to stand for election as an alternate candidate.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, once again, this year, we observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 1 to October 15 and celebrate the rich history, culture and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan twenty years later as a month-long celebration and enacted into law August 17, 1988. Our leaders, then and now, recognize this nation was founded and built through the hard work and sacrifices of immigrants from around the world and so we honor Hispanic-Americans whose past and future contributions have added to the strength and endurance of American society. The shared goal of a prosperous, greater America is further enhanced by their ongoing participation and recognized during National Hispanic Heritage Month.

SUPPORT OF FARMINGTON AREA REPUBLICANS

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Farmington Area Republicans of Michigan, who like so many organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress

of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Democracy that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number; a Democracy that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American organization.

HONORING JAY KAPITZ

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Jay Kapitz, who will be honored by the Los Angeles Democratic Party as a 2013 Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democrat of the Year.

Jay is a community activist who possesses a vested interest in the social, economic and political well-being of Ventura County. He has always gone above the call of duty to explain the political nuances that will impact our community.

His insight and knowledge about the political process are invaluable. As a community volunteer, member of the Ventura County Democratic Party Communications Committee, and Election Strategy Chair of the Democratic Club of the Conejo Valley, Jay is a committed advocate of progressive issues and has long supported the priorities of the Democratic Party.

Jay has always taken his passion, charisma, and expertise in political organizing into the community. As a champion for environmental sustainability, he was involved in raising awareness over the Santa Susana Field Laboratory superfund site clean-up and Ventura County's Save Open-Space and Agricultural

Resources (SOAR) initiative in the Conejo Valley. He is dedicated to the protection of open space and stands against further development of the hillsides around Oak Park, the Conejo Valley and all of Ventura County.

For being an exemplary grassroots activist who is consistently on the frontline for Democratic candidates and important statewide propositions, I extend my sincere congratulations and join the Los Angeles Democratic Party in honoring Jay Kapitz.

SUPPORT OF THE WESTERN WASHTENAW TEA PARTY

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Western Washtenaw Tea Party of Michigan, who like so many grassroots organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Democracy that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number; a Democracy that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today. The roots of which are solid stock and American made, they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grassroots organization.